

· Appln. No. 09/980,282
Amdt. dated June 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2004

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

The invention relates to a degassing centrifugal apparatus such as a pump and to a process for pumping and degassing a fluid. The apparatus has a rotatable hollow rotor connected to a stationary fluid inlet at one end and a stationary liquid outlet at the opposite end and a gas exhaust in the center thereof. The rotor has at its inlet end a bladed ~~shovel~~ wheel with arcuate ~~shovels~~ blades. The ~~shovel~~ bladed wheel accelerates a fluid flow in said rotor inlet end and causes the fluid to rotate at a peripheral velocity higher than the peripheral velocity of said rotor inlet end. The apparatus is especially useful for pumping and degassing backwater in the production of paper or board in a paper machine.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Figure 2, previously omitted element 38 has been added.